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### UM competes well at international Moot Court competition

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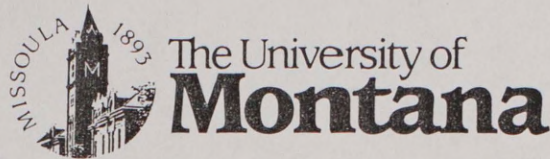
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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April 5, 2005

**Contact:** David Aronofsky, UM legal counsel and Jessup team coach, (406) 243-4742.

### **UM COMPETES WELL AT INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION**

**MISSOULA —**

Jacey Messer, a third-year law student at The University of Montana, stood out from the pack during the 46th annual Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, held March 27-April 3 in Washington, D.C.

Messer placed 13th out of 326 oralists at the competition.

In addition, the UM team submitted the fifth-best applicant memorial out of 108. UM had the highest-ranked memorial -- a brief filed by the party initiating the case -- of any U.S. team.

Besides Messer, the other UM International Moot Court Team included Matt Lowy, Eli Parker, Ryan McCarty and Stephanie Happold. They competed against 102 other law schools from 90 countries around the world for the Sherman & Sterling Jessup Cup.

The competition requires students to participate in a simulation of practice before the International Court of Justice, or "World Court." The students worked since September on a hypothetical case between two fictional countries that concerned legal issues resulting from a pirate attack against a ship carrying nuclear materials.

David Aronofsky, UM's legal counsel who also co-coaches the Montana Jessup Team with U.S. State Department lawyer Sally Cummins, said Montana made a splash apart from its

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strong showing in the competition. He said Cory Swanson, a U.S. Army officer stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, helped assemble the first-ever Iraqi team to compete at the international moot court competition. Originally from **Manhattan, Mont.**, Swanson graduated from the UM law school in 2004 and was on last year's UM Jessup Team. He was assisted in his efforts to help the Iraqis by Aronofsky and UM law Dean Ed Eck.

In addition, a team from the University of Montevideo Law School in Uruguay competed for the first time ever and won several awards. Aronofsky and several other UM law school faculty members, as well as Montana Supreme Court Justice Karla Gray, have taught law courses there during the past several years. The Uruguay team attributed its success to the help they received from UM.

UM won the right to participate in the international competition last winter by being among the top finishers at the regional competition in Seattle.

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